



# IL Health Information Exchange News

Illinois Office of Health Information Technology (OHIT)


Issue #6

May 2012

## Illinois Setting the Standard for Privacy and Security With Strategic Partnership

The Strategic Healthcare IT Advanced Research Projects on Security (SHARPS), led by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, is a multidisciplinary team of national experts in computer security, medical, and social science who are developing security and privacy policies and technology tools to support the electronic use and exchange of health information.

The Illinois Office of Health Information Technology is proud to be collaborating with SHARPS on the Illinois Health Information Exchange (ILHIE) technical implementation and addressing the critical need to ensure the safety and privacy of health records exchanged between care providing organizations. SHARPS will be working to develop a technical prototype that can manage a patient's complex consent preferences and adhere to state and federal laws governing privacy and consent.

This cutting edge work will assist ILHIE in guiding its health information infrastructure to ensure the current and future safety and privacy of the ILHIE and further help establish national health information exchange privacy standards. To learn more about SHARPS visit <http://www.SHARPS.org> .

## Statewide Summits for Behavioral Health Providers Scheduled for June

The goal of the Illinois [Behavioral Health Integration Project \(BHIP\)](#) is to promote the exchange of health information among behavioral health and medical care providers to achieve better care.

On the heels of a successful [first statewide meeting](#) the BHIP team will be conducting [provider summits in June 2012](#) in Rockford, Chicago, Springfield and Carterville to better understand what providers require from state policy to support electronic health exchange. The summits will also explore changes needed to state confidentiality laws to facilitate communications and improve patient outcomes while guarding against stigma and discrimination.

The summits are for behavioral health providers (mental health and substance abuse treatment) and medical providers that collaborate with behavioral health providers. These summits seek to address CEOs, Executive Directors, and/or Clinical/Administrative Directors. For details about the June summits or to register for the summit nearest to your practice, [click here](#).

**E-Health Exchange- Better Care Through Technology**



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## ILHIE Reaches New Implementation Milestone

In April, the ILHIE established one of the key components of its core services implementation: the master patient index. The statewide master patient index is considered one of the most important resources in health information exchange because it serves as a “single source of truth” for linking patient records within an organization, across organizations or across the state. A master patient index only contains an individual’s demographic information, which is then used to pull up a patient’s clinical information from their provider’s private system. Importantly, a master patient index ensures that every patient is represented uniquely within all systems of data. For health exchange to function, providers need a reliable way of matching their patients with available records in the network.

More than 2.7 million Illinois patient records have been shared by the State’s Medicaid agency to begin populating Illinois’ statewide master patient index and several million more will be added in the coming months.

## **ILHIE Direct Messaging for Every Day, Secure, Statewide Health Information Exchange**

Most health care professionals exchange confidential patient health information such as transition of care documents, referrals, information requests or responses to requests for information about a patient every day. But, are your daily communications HIPAA compliant?

Today, more than 400 Illinois health care professionals are signed up to securely exchange patient health records statewide through the [ILHIE Direct Secure Messaging Solution](#), a HIPAA compliant email address. All you need is an Internet connection and web browser to take full advantage of the service. Also, ILHIE Direct is provided at no cost to licensed Illinois professionals and their support teams through 2012. No more faxing or copying and mailing of medical records!

ILHIE Direct messages can be exchanged only between other ILHIE Direct users, so before registering, encourage your most frequent communication partners to register for an ILHIE Direct email address as well. Once you’re on the system, exchanging unlimited secure messages is as simple as sharing an email with an attachment. But now your communications are secure and HIPAA compliant.

For more information or to register for ILHIE Direct please visit [www.ILHIEdirect.net](http://www.ILHIEdirect.net) . If you need further assistance contact Cory Verblen at [cory.verblen@illinois.gov](mailto:cory.verblen@illinois.gov) or call 312-793-0430.

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